

Draft Resolution

1 Tabled by Oikologoi Prasinoi – Greece

4 **Call to member states on GMOs**

7 The EU must respect and base its policy on the precautionary principle and take into account the
 8 established and legitimate opposition to this controversial technology. At a time when American
 9 consumers and farmers are beginning to realize the negative effects of an agricultural system based on
 10 biotechnology, Europe must not abandon the most logical approach that has been defended by Europeans
 11 for decades and follow the precautionary principle.

12 The European Parliament has recently adopted an agreement for a new system, that will bring
 13 GMOs into the EU arena. It did so with a large majority that was formed among the European
 14 People's Party, the Social Democrats and the Liberals. The European Greens voted against this
 15 new regime, renationalise' EU policies, instead of addressing the undemocratic authorisation
 16 procedure and reforming the risk assessment process.

17 The European Greens harshly criticised the new Directive on GMO regulation, since it aims at
 18 making Member States agree to EU authorisations, thus facilitating GMO acceptance to
 19 cultivation in the EU, in exchange for the possibility of banning cultivation in some territories
 20 afterwards.

21 Member states that are opposed to the use of GMOs are, in fact, given incentives to ban
 22 cultivation on their territories, however, the system that was adopted to do so gives them no
 23 legally sound basis for such a decision.

24 The EGP considers a reform to the EU's GMO approval process as the most critical issue in this
 25 regard. We cannot accept the current situation, in which permits are approved despite incorrect
 26 risk assessments. This is especially true when consistent opposition is presented by the majority
 27 of EU member states in the Council, and the majority of EU citizens.

28 The solution to this problem cannot be a game of give and take, on the one hand easing GMO-
 29 approvals and on the other hand easing national bans. This agreement threatens to open the
 30 door to GMOs throughout Europe.

31 Together with MEPs from the Green and other political families, Ecologists Greens (Oikologoi
 32 Prasinoi) has previously resisted the Commission's manipulation, which aims to undemocratically
 33 impose the cultivation of GMOs in Europe.

34 Since the Greek Presidency was unable to exercise an independent policy due to it being forced
 35 into the humiliating support of GMO lobbying. This time round things are more serious.

36 During the EU Presidency in the first half of 2014, the Greek government, either by complete ignorance
 37 or for reasons more suspicious, seems to have contributed to the European Commission's efforts at
 38 reopening, after many years, the back door to genetically modified corn varieties. They not only bowed
 39 down to pressure from big businesses, but also went against the environmental protection and against the

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Deleted: The EGP considers that the most critical issue is the need to reform the EU's process for approving GMOs. We can not be tolerant to the current situation, in which the permits were approved despite the incorrect assessment of the risks and the consistent opposition of the majority of EU Member States in the Council and, most import (... [1])

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Draft Resolution

105 health of European consumers. Just prior to the Greek term being completed, the European Commission
106 tried to impose new varieties of GMOs, despite citizens being largely opposed to these "mutants" in their
107 diet.

108 Nevertheless, European citizens, who in a vast majority refuse to accept the forced consumption
109 of GMO's, can make a difference and stop them once more.

110 The EGP believes that the decision concerning the status of GMOs in Europe will turn the EU
111 into a fragmented mosaic, when what we really need is a common approach. The EGP therefore
112 asks all of the European member states to take upon the necessary, binding initiatives that will
113 ban GMOs in Europe, once and for all.

114 The EGP calls for a comprehensive review of EU legislation on GMOs, and a review into the way
115 in which they impact health and the environment. Until such a review is complete, no approvals
116 for the cultivation of GMOs in the EU should proceed.

117 Keeping the precautionary principle in force is vital for preventing unintended genetical
118 modifications of unmodified crops and species. Aside of the danger of modified genetic material
119 being transferred to non-modified genetic animal and plant stocks in agriculture, we must prevent
120 the transfer of genetically modified genomic material to other, non-agricultural species
121 unintentionally, without any possibility to predict or control their effects. The potential
122 commercial or nutritional benefits are not in any rational proportion to the ecological and health
123 risks generated by loosening the current European control of using genetically modified
124 organisms especially in agriculture.

125 The coincidence of the ongoing TTIP and CETA negotiations with simultaneous degrading of
126 separately legislated GMO standards in the EU may have much more than an arithmetic effect on
127 the EU-level control of GMO-related agriculture and industrial production. When the European
128 citizens' abilities to control the ecological and health risks of the GMO's are weakened in both
129 directions, the risk effect and the weakening of the control measures may be merely exponential,
130 because of their negative synergy. This will increase the profitability of land grabbing for GMO
131 production.
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Deleted: However, European citizens' awareness, who in their vast majority refuse to accept eating forcibly GMO's, can make a difference and stop them for one more time. .

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